Mr. K. M. Ibrahim:—May I know what steps have been taken by Government? All through, nothing.

Mr. President:— Government evidently thought that their procedure in following the general policy of instructions to Heads of Departments is working satisfactorily.

Mr. George Parakkal:—Are the instructions to the Heads of Departments written or oral?

Mr. T. S. Narayana Ayyar:—Partly written and partly oral.

Mr. George Parakkal:— What are written?

Mr. T. S. Narayana Ayyar:—I want notice.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan:—In view of the complaint from various quarters on this subject, will the Government be pleased immediately to take up the framing of certain definite rules especially when we have such a Diwan for us?

Mr. President:—I think we have had sufficient number of supplementary questions on this subject.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan:—Is it not possible to immediately proceed to frame a set of rules?

Mr. President:—Government will not be prepared to act upon the suggestion of the Member if it is in the nature of questions and answers. But if the Hon'ble Members will table a resolution and the Government find that an overwhelming majority are in favour of it Government will take that into consideration.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan:—I may point out that one of my cut motions under General Administration unfortunately was not reached last evening. It was to this effect: The want of definite rules regarding the recruitment of unrepresented community candidates into the State Service.

Mr. President:— The very fact that that motion was not reached evinces that the House was not unanimous on it.

Mr. George Parakkal:—Are these statements in the capacity of the Diwan or as the President of the Council?

Mr. President:— In the capacity of the Diwan. I thought that as Diwan I would be in a better position to answer questions of policy and it will save the time of the House also.

Mr. K. M. Ibrahim:—May I bring to the notice of the Diwan that if his idea is the concensus opinion of the majority of this House, the majority does not consist of members of unrepresented communities. Will he note that also?

Supply of salt

130. Mr. P. Raman Menon:— Will the Government be pleased to state:—

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(a) whether it was the Bombay salt that has been all along imported into and used in the State;

(b) whether Tuticorin salt is not very much inferior in quality to the Bombay salt;

(c) whether a tender for Tuticorin salt was not rejected by the then Commissioner of Excise and the Diwan on the main ground of inferiority;

(d) whether there is any truth in the report that this time a tender has been given or accepted for Tuticorin salt also ?

Mr. M. P. Cherian:— (a) Yes, since 1095.

(b) There are different varieties, some of which are as good as Bombay salt

(c) No. No tenders were called for for the supply of Tuticorin salt.

(d) No.

Mr. Popatlal Goverdhan Lalan:—May I know why tenders were not called for Tuticorin salt which is comparatively cheaper than Bombay salt ?

Mr. M. P. Cherian:— There is no special reason for not calling for tenders. It is under the consideration of the Government.

Mr. Popatlal Goverdhan Lalan:— Whether Travancore Government consume Tuticorin salt ?

Mr. M. P. Cherian:— A portion of the salt necessary is from Tuticorin.

Mr. Popatlal Goverdhan Lalan:—Whether they have called for quotations for Tuticorin salt ?

Mr. M. P. Cherian:— It varies; Tuticorin salt varies between Rs. 49 and Rs. 59; Bombay salt varies between Rs. 53 and Rs. 54. There are different varieties in both places. Some are dearer, some are cheaper. Some of the varieties of Tuticorin salt are as good as Bombay salt.

Mr. Popatlal Goverdhan Lalan:—Why did not the Government call for tenders from Tuticorin merchants for Tuticorin salt?

Mr. President:—Government is now considering the question as to whether they should purchase Tuticorin salt.

Mr. Popatlal Goverdhan Lalan:—Whether the Government have formerly taken Tuticorin salt ?

Mr. M. P. Cherian:— Yes, for three years.

മിസ്റ്റർ കെ. എസ്സ്. പണിക്കർ:—എഴുകൊല്ലംമുമ്പു് ഇവിടെ ഇത്ര കൂടി ഉപ്പു വരുത്തിയതു വേണ്ട എന്നു വയ്ക്കുവാൻ വല്ല പ്രത്യേക കാരണങ്ങളുമുണ്ടോ ?

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മിസ്റ്റർ എം. പി. ചെറിയാൻ:—രണ്ടുമൂന്നു കൊല്ലത്തേയ്ക്കു വരുത്തേണ്ടിവന്നു. ആ കാലം അവസാനിച്ചപ്പോൾ പഴയ മാതിരിയായി.

മിസ്റ്റർ കെ. എസ്സ്. പണിക്കർ:—തൂത്തുക്കുടി ഉപ്പ് ഉപയോഗിച്ചാൽ ചൊറി ചിരങ്ങുകൾ പിടിപെടുന്നുവെന്ന് ജനങ്ങൾ പരാതിപ്പെട്ടതുകൊണ്ടാണ് ബാംബെ ഉപ്പു വരുത്തിയത് എന്നു പറയാമോ ?

മിസ്റ്റർ എം. പി. ചെറിയാൻ:—ബാംബെ ഉപ്പായാലും തൂത്തുക്കുടി ഉപ്പായാലും നല്ലതും ലാഭവും ഏതാണെന്നു നോക്കേണ്ടതുണ്ട്.

മിസ്റ്റർ കെ. എസ്സ്. പണിക്കർ:—ആ കാലത്തും തൂത്തുക്കുടി ഉപ്പ് വരുത്തിയിരുന്നുവോ ?

മിസ്റ്റർ എം. പി. ചെറിയാൻ:—ടെൻഡർ ആവശ്യപ്പെടാത്തതുകൊണ്ട് വരുത്തിയിരുന്നുവോ എന്നു പറയുവാൻ തരമില്ല.

Mr. E. Ikkanda Warriar:— Were there not complaints from the public about the Tuticorin salt ?

Mr. M. P. Cherian:— There were.

Mr. E. Ikkanda Warriar:— Was it due to such complaints that they have stopped that supply ?

Mr. M. P. Cherian:— They were getting Tuticorin salt for a definite period. When that period was over, we began to take from Bombay.

Mr. E. Ikkanda Warriar:— Have they examined the quality of Tuticorin salt ?

Mr. M. P. Cherian:— No.

Mr. E. Ikkanda Warriar:— Will they be pleased to do that before they accept Tuticorin salt ?

Mr. M. P. Cherian:— I do not know whether there is any necessity for that. Tuticorin salt is used in Travancore and Madras.

Mr. E Ikkanda Warriar:— Is it not the duty of the Government to supply the best salt ?

Mr. M. P. Cherian:— There are different varieties in both places. Some Bombay varieties are very much inferior to Tuticorin varieties.

Mr. T. S. Balarama Ayyar:— May I know wherefrom Cochin was getting salt prior to 1099 ?

Mr. M. P. Cherian:— We were getting from Bombay.

Manufacture of sugar from sweet toddy.

131. Mr. E. Ikkanda Warriar:— Will the Government be pleased to state:—

(1) whether they have investigated the possibility of manufacturing sugar from sweet toddy;

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